

Appl. No. 09/920,080
Amdt. dated June 24, 2003
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited
Procedure Examining Group

PATENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--19. A plurality of floating spars 20, 21, 22 are flexibly connected to the main pole 12 at spaced locations along its length. Preferably, the spars are arranged substantially transversely to the main pole. The spars, like the main pole 12, have first and second terminal ends 20a, 20b, 21a, 21b, 22a, and 22b respectively. The spars are referred to as "floating" since one or both terminal ends of one or more of the spars does not terminate in the common plane, like the terminal ends of the main pole 12, but instead remains essentially unconnected or unattached. In the preferred embodiment illustrated, each of the terminal ends of each of the spars is shown unconnected and floating.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--21. Figures 3a-3c illustrate three alternative arrangements for connecting the spars to the main pole. In Figure 3a, the spar is directly connected to the main pole. This connection is suitably made by riveting, tying, hooking or otherwise flexibly connecting the spar to the main pole. In Figure 3b, the spar is indirectly connected to the pole via a suspension cord 22, or the like. The suspension cord may be attached to the main pole and to the spar in any suitable fashion. The suspension cord stabilizes the arch of the spar in the direction of the main pole. Alternatively, suspension cord 22 can be eliminated by providing pockets to engage the ends of the spar to orient the arch towards the main pole, or if the spar is straight. In each of the arrangements of Figures 3a and 3b, the spar is preferably connected to the main pole at approximately the midpoint of the spar. Also in each of these arrangements, the spar is illustrated in a tensioned condition. In Figure 3c, the spar is indirectly connected to the main pole via a pair of tension cords 23 and 24. Similarly to the arrangements of Figures 3a and 3b, the tension cords 23 and 24 may be connected to the spar and to the main pole in any suitable fashion. Tension cords 23 and 24 may be separate cords, or may be a single contiguous cord that runs through the spar, if the spar is hollow. Unlike the arrangements of Figures 3a and 3b, in this alternative arrangement, if separate tension cords are employed, they are preferably attached to

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the spar near its terminal ends, such that the spar is maintained beneath the main pole in a balanced tensioned fashion with its center point in or near the plane of the main pole. Tension cords 23 and 24 may also be replaced by portions of a membrane, such as sleeves, pockets, or the like for engaging and tensioning the spar.--